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Signature

Applicant : John W. Sims, et al. Confirmation No. 2377
Application No. : 09/807,070
Filed : April 6, 2001
Title : CASH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INTERFACE

Grp./Div. : 3714
Examiner : Ronald Laneau

Docket No. : 39786/MEG/A484
Customer No. : 23363

APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.31

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
February 6, 2007

Commissioner:

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is AT Systems, Inc., the owner of the above-referenced application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application, are rejected and are appealed in this paper. The claims are set forth in the Appendix attached hereto.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment has been filed subsequent to the final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The application contains claims 1-26, of which claims 1, 21 and 24 are independent.

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Claim 1 is directed to a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (POS) system 24 to a cash management system (CMS) 10 having cash depositing (e.g., bill verifier and stacker units (BVS) 16) and cash dispensing (e.g., rolled coin dispensers (RCD) 14) functions, as shown, for example, in FIG. 1 and described on page 2, line 28 through page 3, line 7.

The communication interface includes the CMS interface 26 and the POS interface 22. Including the interfaces 22, 26 in the cash management system 10 and POS system 24, respectively, permits the POS system user interface 28 to incorporate or integrate the features of the cash management system user interface 12 into the POS system 24 (See FIG. 1; page 3, lines 8-11). By way of example, diagnostics for a cash management system 10 in one location can be run from a POS system 24 at another location anywhere in the world (See FIG. 1; page 3, lines 26-28). The communication interface for providing communication between the POS system and the CMS system includes software on the cash management system to permit operation of the CMS system over a communication link, and software on the POS system to permit control of the CMS over the communication link.

Claim 21 is directed to a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a P.O.S. system to a cash management system, wherein the cash management system includes a user interface, and a user interface software on the P.O.S. system emulates the user interface of the cash management system.

The graphical user interface provided on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link is shown, for example, in FIGs. 2-12 that illustrate various features of cash management system 10 as provided on its user interface 12 or remotely on P.O.S. system user interface 28. (See page 3, lines 21-22). For example, a Windows-based emulation of the user interface 12 can be provided as illustrated in Figs. 2-12. The system displays illustrated in Figs. 2-12 provide a graphical representation of the keypad, buttons, and display of user interface 12 (See page 3, lines 11-14).

Data formats are defined for communicating information between the cash management system and the POS system. (See page 4, line 31 to page 11, line 21). For example, a description of an illustrative communication between a cash management system 10 and P.O.S.

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system 24 is given as follows. (See page 4, lines 31-32). The communication protocol includes a command string that the P.O.S. system 24 sends to the cash management system 10, telling the cash management system 10 what to do. (See page 4, lines 1-2). In one embodiment, all strings follow the same format (See page 4, line 31 through page 5, line 2). The interface between the cash management system 10 and the POS system 24 can be configured to use a modem interface, cellemetry interface, or World Wide Web-based interface (See page 3, lines 24-26).

Claim 24 is directed to a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a P.O.S. system to a cash management system, including performing diagnostic functions over a communications link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system for performing the diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface at the P.O.S. system. (See page 3, lines 23-28 and FIG. 3).

As illustrated in Fig. 3, cash management system 10 provides diagnostic functions that can be provided remotely on P.O.S. system 24. (See page 3, lines 23-24). When interfaces 22, 26 are configured to use a modem interface, cellemetry interface, or World Wide Web-based interface, diagnostics for a cash management system 10 in one location can be run from a P.O.S. system 24 at another location anywhere in the world. (See page 3, lines 23-28).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The issue on appeal is whether the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,067,530 to Brooks, Jr. et al. ("Brooks") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,883,371 to Meeker ("Meeker"), and therefore should be reversed.

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VII. ARGUMENT

1. The Examiner Failed to Establish a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness in Rejecting Claims 1-20

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (MPEP § 2142).

Claim 1 recites a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions, the communication interface for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system including providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link.

The Office Action states (pages 2-3):

As per claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 24-26, Brooks discloses...providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the internet (fig. 1, electronic drop safe)...

Figures 1A and 1B of Brooks are reproduced below. Applicant is unable to find the "fig. 1" cited by the Office Action.

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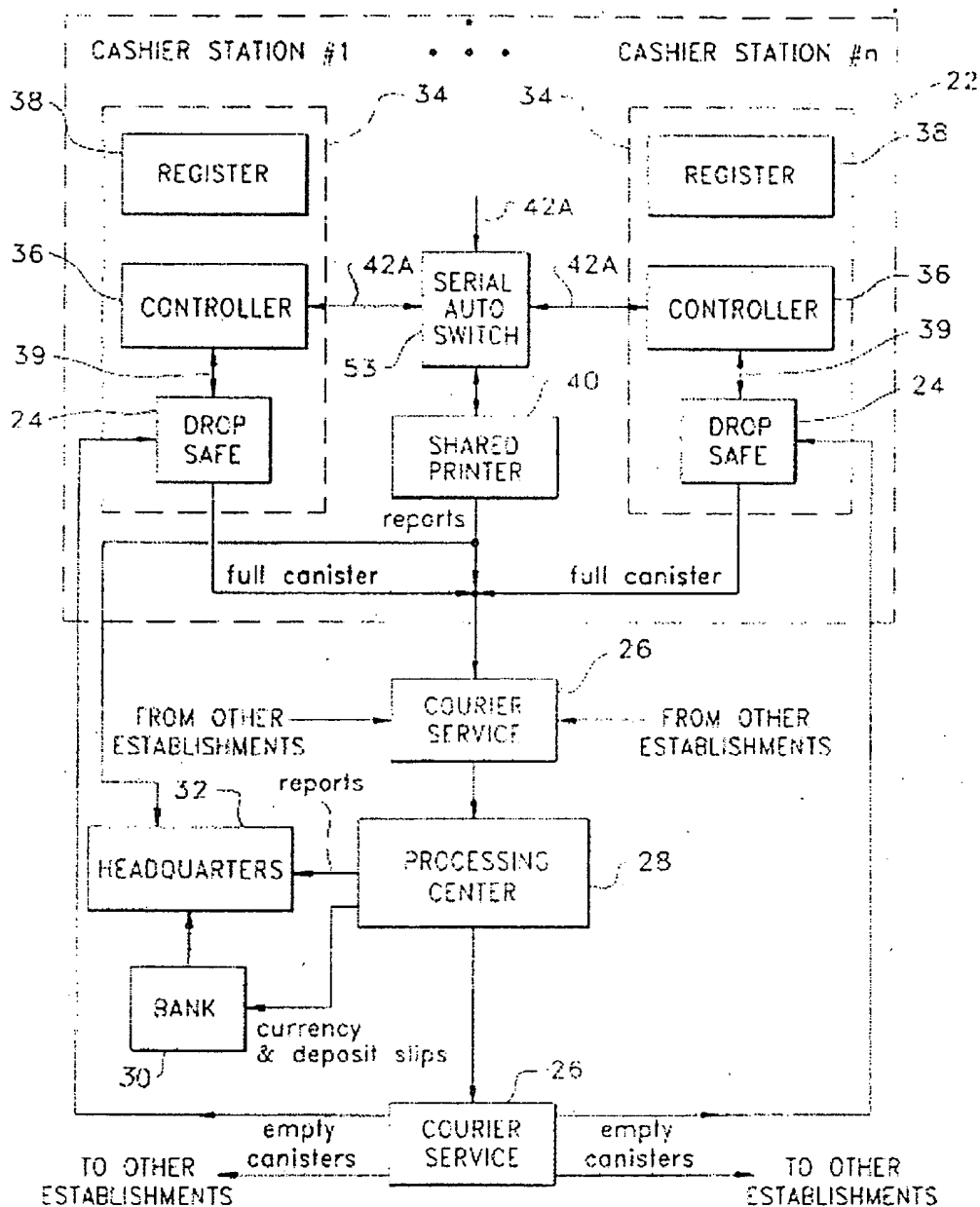


FIG. 1A

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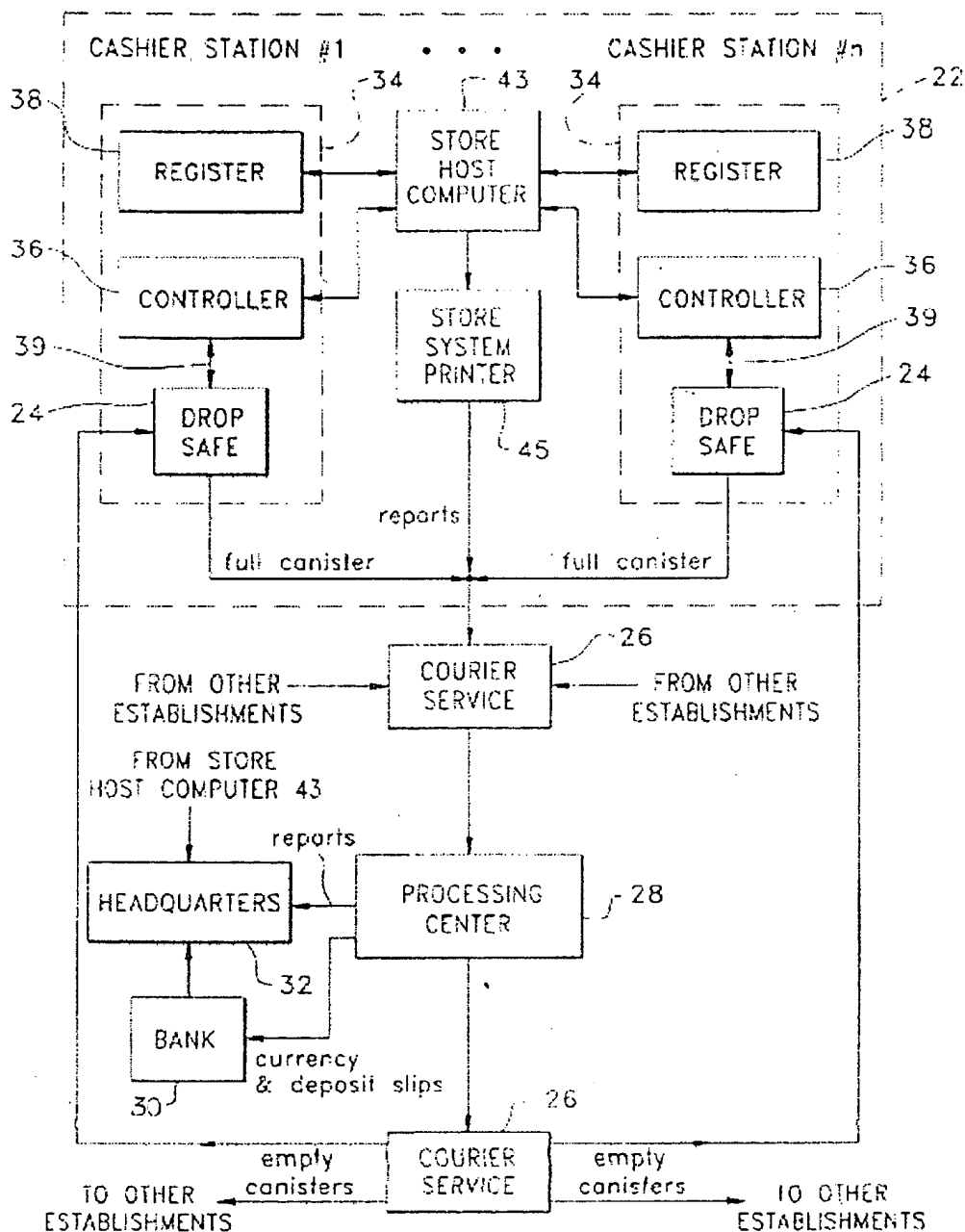


FIG. 1B

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As an initial matter, Applicant admits the inability to find the text "internet" cited by the Office Action in either FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B or the text of Brooks.

Further, Applicant is unable to find where in FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B or the text of Brooks it indicates "providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link", among other limitations recited in claim 1. Further still, Applicant is unable to find where in FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B or the text of Brooks it indicates "providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link", among other limitations recited in claim 1. Similarly, Meeker does not teach or suggest "providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link" or "providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link", as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the Office Action fails to demonstrate that Brooks, alone or in combination with Meeker, teaches all of the claimed limitations. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable for at least these reasons.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. (MPEP § 2142).

The Brooks reference is directed to a cash management system that tracks bills by cashier, by amount and by time while securing those bills immediately within a drop safe upon receipt from the customer in preparation for pickup by a courier service. (Abstract, Emphasis added). In the "Background of Invention" section, Brooks explains that prior art cash management systems (CMS) include a four step process:

(1) when the cashier makes change for the customer during the transaction; (2) when the cashier removes the excess cash from the cash register; (3) when the store manager retrieves the cash from each of the drop safes and then counts/verifies that the total of each cashier's drops equals the total sales rung up by that cashier; and (4) when the store manager assembles all of the cash drops into a single collection for preparation of a bank deposit, the manager must add up all of the cash and verify that the store's total amount of sales is equivalent to the total amount of cash that is in place. [Col. 1:26-38].

Brooks then states:

"However, such a four stage process involves redundant counting of money and is very complicated. It is, therefore, desirable to make only a single "count" at stage 1 and thereby

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eliminate duplicative counting at stages 2-4." [Col. 1:50-53]. "The cash management system of the present invention facilitates this audit by providing the store manager, as well as the store owner, with the amount of cash dropped in the safe, thereby eliminating the counting of stages 2-4." [Col. 1:27-57].

The "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT" section of Brooks further states:

"The CMS 20 comprises at least one establishment subsystem 22 that tracks the bills received at that establishment (e.g., a convenience store) based on bill denominations and cashier that a particular cashier received while simultaneously securing those bills immediately upon receipt from the customer in an electronic drop safe 24. ..." [Col. 5:18-24, emphasis added].

"The importance of the processing center 28 in the CMS 20, among other things, is that once the bill is "dropped" into the safe 24 by the cashier from a customer, that bill remains secured within the safe 24 until it reaches the security of the processing center 28. In other words, actual "bill counting" is eliminated at the establishment 22 which not only alleviates a time-consuming task of the store manager, but also minimizes any exposure that those bills have outside of the safe 24 at the establishment 22." [Col. 5:35-44, emphasis added].

Brooks sought to eliminate the unnecessary handling of money by minimizing the typical four stage process into a single step. Consequently, Brooks designed a system that transfers cash or money directly from a customer and then deposits the same directly into an electronic safe. By modifying Brooks in accordance with the cash dispensing features disclosed by Meeker as suggested by the Examiner, the Examiner essentially introduces the very steps or stages Brooks sought to eliminate, which runs counter with the express teachings in the Brooks reference. Among other things, the added steps would introduce auditing requirements, risk of theft or robbery, and human errors in the added step, which Brooks expressly eliminated.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the modified combination "...would eliminate the need for the store manager having to manually verify each cashier and also enable the store manager to spend less time counting money and more time servicing customers." Brooks states "It is another object of this invention to provide apparatus that enables the store manager to spend less time counting money and more time servicing customers...It is still yet a further object of this invention to provide cash management apparatus that eliminates the need for the store manager having to manually verify each cashier." (Brooks, col. 3:19-42). Brooks further states "These and other objects of the instant invention are achieved by providing a cash management system for at least one business establishment for tracking bills received from customers during sales transactions and for immediately securing the bills in preparation for pickup by a courier service for delivery to a processing center." (Brooks, col. 3:45-50).

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Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Brooks and Meeker to "eliminate the need for the store manager having to manually verify each cashier and also enable the store manager to spend less time counting money and more time servicing customers" when Brooks already stated that it achieved this result. Accordingly, the Brooks reference is complete in itself and the Examiner failed to provide a suggestion or motivation to combine Brooks with Meeker. For at least this reason, the prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

Further, as summarized above, Brooks' system already eliminates "bill counting" and has already reserved that step for a processing center. The Examiner's proposed system would actually add counting steps not eliminate them. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the combination of Brooks in view of Meeker is defective under MPEP § 2143.01 as Brooks expressly teaches away from the proposed modifications.

If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious. (MPEP § 2143.01.vi citing *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)). As stated above, Brooks states that "The importance of the processing center 28 in the CMS 20, among other things, is that once the bill is 'dropped' into the safe 24 by the cashier from a customer, that bill remains secured within the safe 24 until it reaches the security of the processing center 28." (Brooks, col. 5:35-40). The Office Action states "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the cash management including a digital deposit and dispensing safe as taught by Meeker into the system of Brooks...". (Office Action, page 3). Including a cash dispensing function into the Brooks system is expressly opposite of "once the bill is 'dropped' into the safe 24 by the cashier from a customer, that bill remains secured within the safe 24 until it reaches the security of the processing center 28." Accordingly, the proposed modification of Brooks to include the cash dispensing function of Meeker would change the principle of operation of Brooks. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made, and claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason.

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a. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20

Applicant further disputes the obviousness rejection of claim 2 and claims dependent therefrom.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (MPEP § 2142).

The Office Action states that "As per claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20-23, Brooks discloses...providing a graphical user interface 38." (Office Action, pages 3-4). Claim 2 recites "providing a graphical user interface on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link", among other limitations. The Office Action fails to demonstrate that Brooks teaches, discloses or suggests "providing a graphical user interface on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link". Similarly, the Office Action fails to demonstrate that Meeker teaches, discloses or suggests "providing a graphical user interface on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link." Accordingly, even if the Brooks and Meeker could be combined, Brooks and Meeker, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Accordingly, the prima facie case of obviousness has not been made, and claim 2 is patentable over the cited references for at least this reason.

Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 depend from claim 2, which is patentable for the aforementioned reasons. Accordingly, claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 are also patentable for at least this reason.

Claims 2-20 depend from claim 1, which is patentable for the aforementioned reasons. Accordingly, claims 2-20 are patentable for at least this reason.

Applicant further disputes the obviousness rejection of dependent claim 3 ("defining data formats for communicating between the cash management system and the P.O.S. system"), claim 13 ("software...for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system"), and claim 17 ("for performing setup functions on the cash management system").

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2. The Examiner Failed to Establish a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness in Rejecting Claims 21-23

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (MPEP § 2142).

The Office Action states that "As per claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20-23, Brooks discloses...providing a graphical user interface 38." (Office Action, pages 3-4). Independent claim 21 recites "a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system comprising...wherein the cash management system includes a user interface, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over a communication link comprises providing a user interface software on the P.O.S. system which emulates the user interface of the cash management system." (underlining added). Applicant is unable to find and the Office Action fails to indicate a teaching in Meeker or Brooks, alone or in combination, of "providing a user interface software on the P.O.S. system which emulates the user interface of the cash management system", as recited in claim 21. Indeed, other than the Examiner's conclusory statement no citation was made to any of the cited references to support the Examiner's position. Accordingly, the Office Action failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, and claim 21 is patentable for at least this reason.

In addition, Applicant submits that Brooks and Meeker are not combinable for the same reasons discussed above for the allowance of claim 21.

Further, dependent claim 22 recites and the Examiner failed to show any disclosure in the cited references for "wherein the user interface of the cash management system includes a keyboard and a display."

Further still, dependent claim 23 recites and the Examiner failed to show any disclosure in the cited references for "wherein the user interface emulates the display of the cash management system by changing a display window of the P.O.S. system at the same time and in the same way as the display on the cash management system."

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3. The Examiner Failed to Establish a Prima Facie Case of Obviousness in Rejecting Claims 24-26 When No Reasons for Obviousness Were Provided for Claims 24-26

Independent claim 24 recites, in part, a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions and providing software on the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system.

In the first instance and as discussed above, Brooks expressly teaches away from incorporating a cash dispensing function in combination with a cash depositing function. Thus, the Examiner cannot combine Brooks with Meeker in the manner suggested.

In the second instance, claim 24 recites, in part, "providing software on the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system". The Office Action failed to provide any bases, reasons, or comments for rendering this part of claim 24 obvious under § 103(a). No reference was made to Brooks or Meeker nor could Applicant find any teaching in the two references regarding "providing software on the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system." Thus, the Office Action failed to make a prima facie case for obviousness.

Brooks in view of Meeker, even if combinable, failed to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of claim 24.

Dependent claim 25 further recites "wherein the software on the P.O.S....comprises software for emulating the diagnostic functions of the cash management system". Again, the Examiner failed to point to any teachings in any of the references to show the foregoing limitations.

Dependent claim 26 recites and the Examiner failed to show "wherein the software on the P.O.S....comprises software for determining that the cash management system is still connected to the P.O.S. system over the communication link".

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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

A copy of the claims involved in the appeal is attached.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no Evidence Appendix.

X. RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

There is no Related Proceeding Appendix.

XI. CONCLUSION


None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "a method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions...providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link", as recited in independent claim 1. In particular, Brooks does not disclose any cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions. In addition, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "providing a user interface software on the P.O.S. system which emulates the user interface of the cash management system", as recited in independent claim 21. Further still, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "performing diagnostic functions over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system for performing the diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system", as recited in independent claim 24. Therefore, the claims are not obvious over any of the references, either individually or together in any combination.

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For the above reasons, claims 1-26 are believed allowable and reversal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

1. A method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions, the communication interface for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system including providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link includes providing a graphical user interface on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include defining data formats for communicating information between the cash management system and the P.O.S. system.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include defining data formats for communicating information between the cash management system and the P.O.S. system.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over

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the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a modem.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a modem.

7. The method of claim 3 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a modem.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a modem.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash

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management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a wide-area network.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a wide-area network.

11. The method of claim 3 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a wide-area network.

12. The method of claim 4 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for controlling the cash management system over a wide-area network.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash

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management system and the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system.

14. The method of claim 2 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system.

15. The method of claim 3 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system.

16. The method of claim 4 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash

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management system and the P.O.S. system for performing setup functions on the cash management system.

18. The method of claim 2 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for performing setup functions on the cash management system.

19. The method of claim 3 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for performing setup functions on the cash management system.

20. The method of claim 4 wherein providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link together include providing software on at least one of the cash management system and the P.O.S. system for performing setup functions on the cash management system.

21. A method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system including providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system over a communication link, and

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providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over the communication link,

wherein the cash management system includes a user interface, and providing software on the P.O.S. system to permit control of the cash management system over a communication link comprises providing a user interface software on the P.O.S. system which emulates the user interface of the cash management system.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the user interface of the cash management system includes a keyboard and a display.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the user interface software on the P.O.S. system emulates the display of the cash management system by changing a display window of the P.O.S. system at the same time and in the same way as the display of the cash management system.

24. A method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions, the communication interface for providing communication between the P.O.S. system and the cash management system including providing software on the cash management system to permit operation of the cash management system including performing diagnostic functions over a communication link, and providing software on the P.O.S. system for performing the diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system.

25. The method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions of claim 24, wherein the software on the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system comprises software for emulating the diagnostic functions of the cash management system.

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26. The method of providing a communication interface for coupling a point-of-sale system to a cash management system having cash depositing and cash dispensing functions of claim 24, wherein the software on the P.O.S. system for performing diagnostic functions on the cash management system over the communication link using a user interface device at the P.O.S. system comprises software for determining that the cash management system is still connected to the P.O.S. system over the communication link.

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